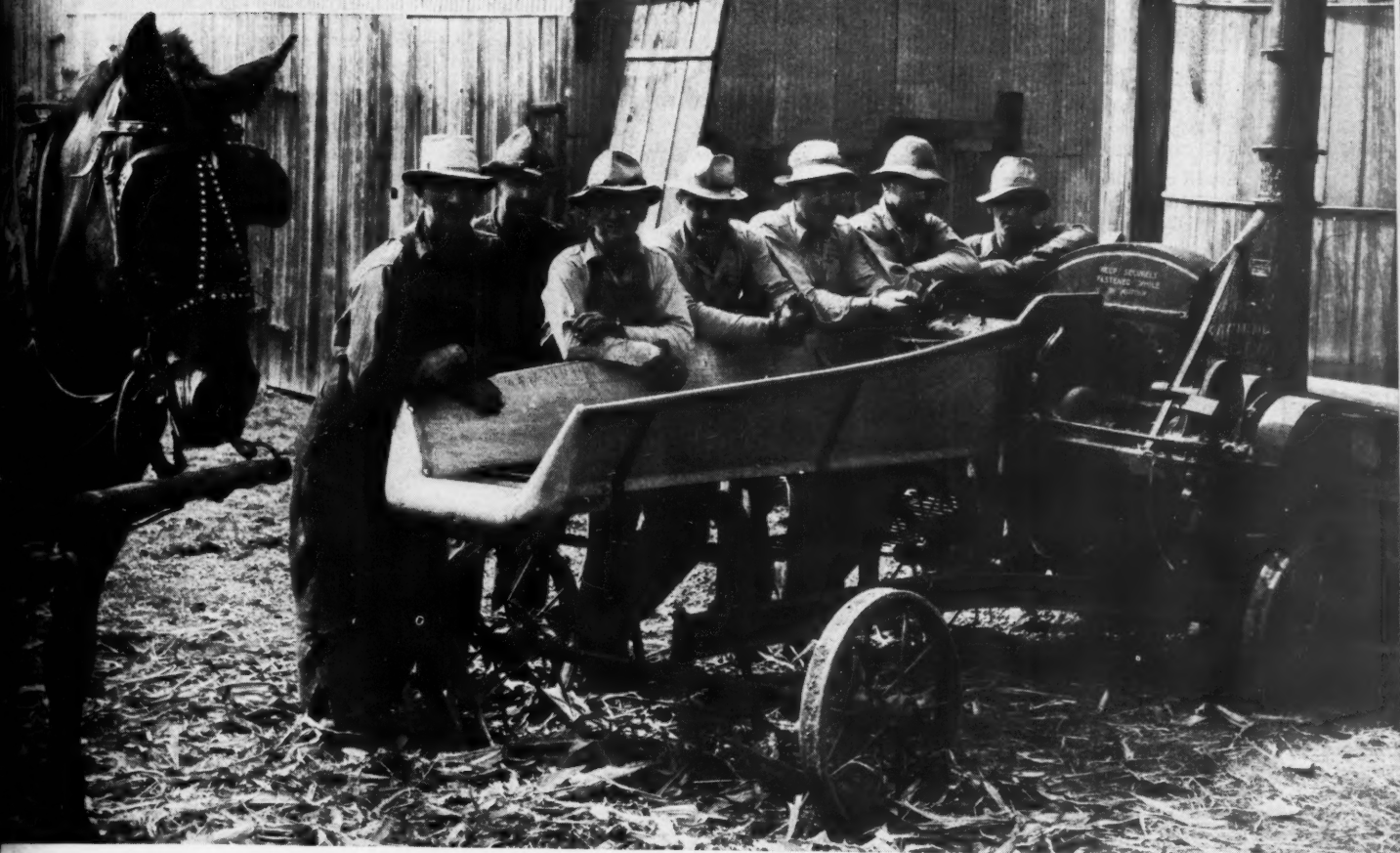


COOPERATORS

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# CONSUMERS' GUIDE

MAY 15, 1940



MATTRESSES



CHARDING FOODS



BOOKSHELF



# CONSUMERS' GUIDE

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Prepared by  
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D. E. MONTGOMERY, CONSUMERS' COUNSEL  
MARY TAYLOR, EDITOR

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**AMERICA'S MAKEUP** is the subject of 30 court decisions recently made public by the Food and Drug Administration. These decisions are the final results of the first court actions taken by the Food and Drug Administration under the cosmetic section of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938.

Cosmetic case No. 1 pitted the United States Government against 23 boxes of eyelash and eyebrow dyes. Involved in the same proceeding were quantities of the same eyelash and eyebrow dye taken in 33 other seizures. The dyes contained, according to the court action, "a poisonous or deleterious substance — paraphenylenediamine — which might have rendered it injurious to users under the conditions of use prescribed in its labeling. . . ." Even the manufacturer of the dye had an intimation that the dye was dangerous, for in the packages of the dye which were sold to beauty operators for application to their patrons, he enclosed a waiver. "For the Protection of Beauty Operators," he advised, "have your patrons sign the enclosed waiver. Our records show that only one person in several thousand is susceptible to dye, but warning should be given."

At the trial involving the 23 boxes of dye the cosmetic manufacturer did not put in an appearance, so the court simply ordered all the seized dyes destroyed. The manufacturer was haled before a court in cases involving the same dye, however, and here was fined \$2,300. All except \$250 of this fine was remitted.

The first 12 court cases of the Food and Drug Administration under the cosmetic section of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938 had to do with eyebrow and eyelash dyes.

Hair dyes were the culprits in cosmetic cases 13, 14, and 15. They had the finger put on them because their labels did not warn consumers that they contained ingredients which might cause skin irritations.

More than 40,000 lipsticks took the stand in another case. They were accused of containing cadmium and selenium, two minerals which might be poisonous or deleterious to lipstick users. These lipsticks, which were imported, were not destroyed. Instead the court permitted the importer to salvage the containers and to ship the lipsticks back where they came from in one huge mass of lipstick.

CREAMS AND LOTIONS WERE DEFENDANTS in 6 cases. All of them got in trouble because they were dangerous. One promised to remove freckles and tan; the second promised to get rid of moles; the third promised to eradicate externally caused pimples and superficial discoloration of the skin; the fourth was a bleaching cream; the fifth was a purported remedy for dandruff and eczema; while the sixth was offered as a treatment for pimples, tan, and freckles. All of them were ordered destroyed.

The last 8 of the Food and Drug Administration's first 30 court cases put cosmetics on trial for being packaged in deceptive containers. One guilty tube of tooth paste was found taking up only 30 percent of its cardboard container. It also bore a false and misleading statement in regard to its effect on gums. A second tooth paste, found inside a container three times too large, was similarly misbranded. In the remaining cases a brand of shaving and dental creams was packed in containers four times larger than necessary. A deodorant was stuck in a container which could have contained four times as much deodorant as it did contain. Another deodorant container was in a box three times too large. Of 3 face powders that strayed into court, 2 contained only one-third as much powder as they seemed to contain, while a third could easily have held an ounce more powder than it did hold.

Anybody who wants to know the names of these products, their shippers, manufacturers, or distributors can obtain them by asking the Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D. C., for a free copy of "Notices of Judgment," May 1940.

## THIS IS FOR YOU!

From its earliest issues, the demand for the *Consumers' Guide* has periodically exceeded our ability to supply copies. Although we have attempted in every way to insure the widest possible distribution of this publication, there have been many times when we have had to refuse requests for copies because the number available has been exhausted.

Each year we ask the persons receiving the *Consumers' Guide* to renew their requests for copies, in this way dropping from the mailing list those to whom the publication is no longer of service. We are making the same request now.

The maximum authorized number of copies of each issue available for official distribution is 150,000. If you wish your name retained on this list, you must fill out and return the top half of the double postal card addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, which you will soon receive. This must be done promptly *within 30 days*. At the end of that period, if we have failed to hear from you, your name will be dropped.

In addition to the official free distribution of the *Consumers' Guide*, copies are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Individual copies are 5 cents per copy, with a discount of 25 percent for orders of 100 or more. Yearly subscription is 50 cents, domestic; 80 cents foreign. When making a purchase, send money order or cash, not stamps or personal checks.

If you are now on the official mailing list but would like to release your copy for someone else who is eligible to be placed on this list, you may use the form order on the bottom half of the double postal card going to you. This should be enclosed in an envelope with cash or money order and the envelope stamped and addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

**REMEMBER**—you must mail the top half of the subscription card *within 30 days* if you wish your name retained on the official list. It may not be possible later to reinstate your name because of the limited number of official copies. Copies may be purchased, however, at all times, from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

*Farm Security Administration has our thanks for the main cover photograph and those on pages 3, 4, and 5 of this issue.*

# A Cooperative Way Out of Want

WHEN YOU START TO COUNT NOSES, YOU find that farmer Thomas has a good many friends and neighbors who can tell a story of much the same pattern. They have tried hard to make farming work the way it worked for Pa and Ma—the way it worked for them when they started out—and they end up behind the eight ball for a reason they can't fathom.

Farmer Thomas tried to think his way out of the spot he and his family were in and reached two conclusions. No. 1: If you can't make a living from your cash crop, you had better save what you can by planting a good patch to things you can eat. That means seeds. No. 2: You had better see what you can do to make your crop at the least possible expense. That means equipment. Seeds and equipment both require cash. Without cash you could plan your farming from here to Kingdom Come and end up with nothing more than some acres of weeds.

That's when Farmer Thomas went calling on the Farm Security Administration.

The Farm Security Administration was created to help farmers like Walt Thomas get back on their feet, and put them on the road to becoming permanently self-supporting. Rehabilitation is part of the job. Small grants are offered in emergency times—when drought or flood strikes. Farmers whose farms are counted by commercial credit sources as poor backing for a loan but whose will to work is counted by the FSA as excellent backing are given the chance to secure individual rehabilitation loans for feed, seed, fertilizer, sometimes livestock and equipment, to help carry out their plans for improved farming. Cooperatives are established through community and cooperative services loans.

Farmer Thomas' own private depression was not the result of drought so he didn't get a direct cash grant, but he did get an individual loan. The cash from this loan bought him feed, fertilizer, a horse, and a plow which he needed and would use entirely by himself. Without these he could



***Farm Security Administration helps 300,000 farm families explore what cooperative organization can do to make farming more profitable and living more tolerable***

**WALT THOMAS\*** is 45, his wife 41, his children still at home are 3, 7, and 10 years old. In 1921 Walt, who has been a farmer all his life, and his father before him, owned a small farm, raised cotton, got along. He had a horse, a cow, chickens, a plow, and other equipment needed for cotton farming. In the summer he farmed, in the winter he bought his food in town: Vegetables in cans, potatoes, flour, meal, sugar, coffee. He paid for them with the cash from his crop. Except when his wife took sick and ran up a doctor's bill he managed pretty well to break even.

Things changed. It's hard for Walt Thomas to recall just how it happened. It wasn't sudden so you could put your finger on it. It was just that he had to plant more and more cotton to get the same amount of cash at harvest time.

Finally he planted clear up to the house—hardly leaving room even for the little patch of summer vegetables.

"There wasn't anything else to do. People started talking about low farm prices. No matter how much you planted you couldn't make a small farm like mine pay. When you finished up at the end of the season, you couldn't believe you wouldn't have more cash. You still had to buy food and

clothes till the next crop was ready. Funny part of it was you had to pay about the same as ever for your canned goods and such.

"I guess we could have pulled through all right if we hadn't had some trouble, but then it's hard to find a farmer that doesn't have sickness one time or other. Even when I had to put a mortgage on the place I didn't much worry. I was figuring like the rest that something would happen so we could get the old prices for our cotton.

"WELL, WHEN YOU HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH to carry you through the winter you certainly haven't got enough to pay debts and big interest either, and you might as well kiss the old homestead good-bye. When you get to be a tenant, things are about the same except you have to pay your rent. You never do seem to get anything ahead. Plows wear out, horses and cows don't live forever. When they're gone you're about sunk, the way I look at it.

"All I got now are a few chickens and the scraps of furniture that still hold together. I've got debts to about \$100 too, but there's no use worrying about them. The only reason I think about them at all is because I need to borrow more to buy seed and fertilizer, and a plow this spring, and there isn't a fellow from here to Birmingham who would loan me a plug nickel with that debt."

\*Walt Thomas is an imaginary personification of many thousands of farmers. He is no particular farmer.





**4** not get anywhere with farming. The responsibility for meeting the interest payments was his alone

THIS INDIVIDUAL LOAN WAS THE STARTER for putting Walt Thomas back on his feet. It helped him carry on his one-crop farming as efficiently as he could. It enabled him to plant the vegetable patch which would cut down his cash outlay for food. But he realized as well as the FSA supervisor that it would not do a great deal to boost his cash income. Probably, when the mare became useless or died, he would have as hard a time finding the money for a new one as he had had before FSA granted the loan.

If he could breed his own stock he would be sure to have an animal to replace this mare when he needed it. Besides, he saw the prospect of new income from selling a colt each year.

There would not be much gain if he had to buy the breeding animal alone, but when he started to figure, he could count at least 9 neighbors who were in just about the same fix as he was. He knew they all would welcome any chance that was offered to build up their income. When they talked it over together, they decided to buy a registered jackass to breed with their mares. While stallions cost less to begin with, the mules which are bred by crossing a mare and a jackass are considered better work animals. They sell for from \$25 to \$75 as compared with a \$50 top for colts.

PLANNING THE PURCHASE WAS JUST HALF the story. Like all FSA rehabilitation loans, this one had strings attached, strings to insure the money's wise investment, its contribution to better farming, to greater security. Joint loans like those granted Farmer Thomas and the others are made on condition that they shall be used for purchases made in fulfillment of the FSA farm plan drawn up between supervisor and farmers and that they shall supply farm or home facilities or equipment cooperatively. Though some FSA co-op loans are small enough to permit a farmer like Walt Thomas to borrow by himself, sometimes there is better reason for granting the loans to establish cooperatives. Walt Thomas' cooperative jack illustrates how much more economical it is for several farmers to join hands to secure a service. More important, cooperatives like this one set up with FSA loans do a lot more for their members than supply the equipment or facility which they could not get alone.

If Walt Thomas had not possessed a neighborly streak in his nature which made him think of nearby farmers in the same

predicament, he might have tried to get what he needed for himself and struggle on alone. In that case he would have had ten times the financial burden to shoulder and one-tenth the brain power to do the job. Through the co-op which he and his neighbors set up with the FSA county supervisor, they secured a registered jack for \$1,000. FSA loaned the money with the provision that it would be repaid in five years at the rate of \$200 a year. The interest rate was set at 3 percent on the unpaid balance.

DIVIDING UP THIS OBLIGATION AMONG THE 10 farmers meant that each farmer's share for the first year came to \$23; for the second, \$22.40; for the third, \$21.80; for the fourth, \$21.20, and for the fifth, \$20.60. To meet these obligations they agreed to levy on themselves a servicing charge of \$15. Outsiders who agreed to service their mares with the co-op's jack settled on this same charge. At the end of the year, they found their treasury held \$300 which had been taken in as payment for servicing. When each member had withdrawn his \$23 due FSA, there was still \$70. Though they could have distributed this money equally among their members as a patronage dividend, they decided to leave it in the treasury. It would provide for feed, and start the fund which would buy a new jack when they needed it.

Among their gains from this FSA co-op they could already count their savings on the servicing of their mares, and the value of their ownership. They looked forward to the annual county fair and barbecue where

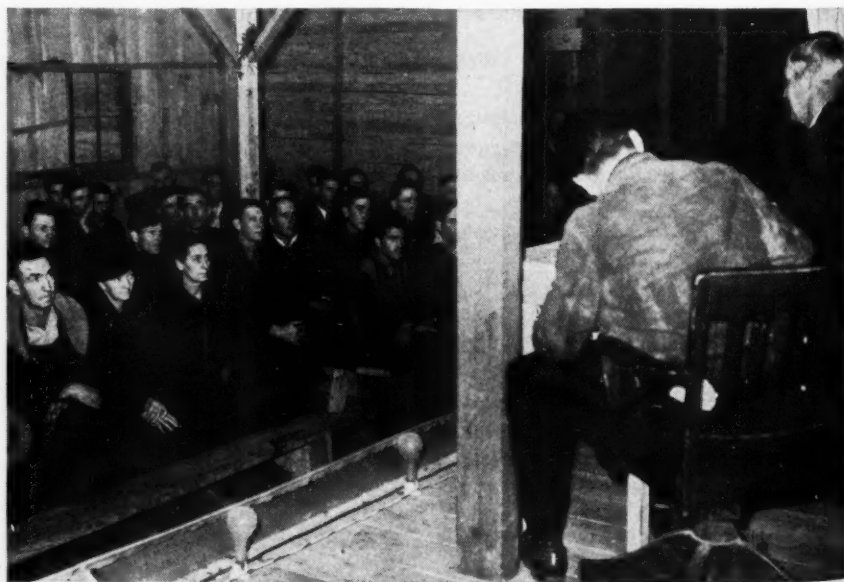
there would be a market for their first mules, and an additional source of much needed cash.

Nonmember participants who were ineligible or uninterested in getting a loan for themselves, shared in the plans from the start. They agreed with the cooperators on the charge to be made for servicing and paid less than they would have to a private farmer. In most progressive cooperatives, provision is made for participants becoming actual cooperative members after FSA loans are paid off. Sometimes, the participant takes over the membership of a cooperator who moves away. In such cases, the service payments he has made are applied toward his membership in the co-op.

COOPERATION IS OLD STUFF TO MANY FARMERS lucky enough to have money to spend or large crops to sell. They have tried it in selling fruits and tobacco, nuts and other farm products. They have tried it in purchasing goods for the family and materials for the farm; in buying insurance, and saving. Cooperation means going into business for yourselves. It means added income and stretched dollars for many farm families. Last year all farm cooperatives rang up a total of 2 billion dollars on their cash registers; 420 million dollars of this was in the cooperative purchasing of goods. Besides more for their dollars, cooperative members feel that active participation in the business helps insure their getting better quality.

FSA co-ops for small farmers differ from other co-ops in detail, not in theory. Through

**FSA's 300,000 co-op members meet together like this group to carry on co-op business and to discuss plans for better farming approved by the FSA county supervisor.**



FSA, co-op farmers pool their willingness to work as security for a loan. With the loan granted by FSA they purchase equipment which they use cooperatively. Repayment of the loan and payment of interest is divided among the members. Care of the equipment is a cooperative responsibility too.

For farmers whose battle with the soil is a tough one, the study and group discussion which are a part of cooperative enterprises bring adequate dividends in good measure. Members meet regularly to talk over their problems. At first, the talk goes slowly and wanders over the weather and family happenings. Gradually the members realize they are stirring up suggestions about better farming. Some one will remember, perhaps, meeting "some agricultural college boy once" who said that drilling seed gives you a whole lot more bushels an acre than just sowing it. Or maybe it's someone else who learns about a better fertilizer everybody might use. Experiences and "learnings" get passed around; ideas are swapped; plans are threshed out together.

WALT THOMAS' FARMERS "TOOK" TO COOPERATIVES. So have 300 thousand other farm families who have received more than 15 thousand community and cooperative service loans granted by FSA. No one can count how much more income co-op-borrowing farmers have earned as a result of these loans. But borrowers of FSA's rehabilitation funds, selected from the same low income groups, have upped their net worth an average of 26 percent, their incomes 43 percent, in the year following the granting of loans. That means families who had on the average \$375 to carry them through the year, made \$538 after receiving loans averaging from \$300 to \$839 each.

Figures like those are not meaningless. When you realize farmers helped by FSA co-ops are getting along on \$375 a year you get a good idea of how much the \$9,000,000 worth of loans granted so far can contribute in terms of better living and greater security.

Most of the community and cooperative service loans so far have been granted to farmers in the south and south central States and FSA looks ahead to the time when, through good farm leadership, co-ops will be established throughout the southern Appalachian area where small farmers fare worst.

Best demonstration center, to show how varied are activities that can be transacted through FSA co-ops, is Box Elder County, Utah. Over half this small county's farm families are participating in some 200 co-ops established by FSA loans. Ranging from



**BEFORE FSA came along, many of these farm families bought all their food. Now, with FSA help, they grow as much as 80 percent of what they eat. Another way they save is to can food for winter use in canning centers established with FSA co-op loans.**

breeding co-ops to cooperatives for medical care, 22 different groups have been established to buy threshers, beet pullers, manure spreaders, and even to build a pumping plant, reservoir and irrigation system. So extensive are FSA co-ops that low income farmers with small holdings can point with pride to their share in trucks, trailers, potato planters, feed choppers, purebred stock and other farm animals and equipment usually owned only by "big business" farmers.

THE NUMBER OF FARMER COOPERATORS, the variety of functions co-ops perform, is proof No. 1 of low income farmers' adaptability to the cooperative way. Proof No. 2 that Box Elder families have learned their lesson on cooperatives well is a report to FSA on inner workings of the co-ops. Even the handful of farmers, who together, have purchased a sleek stallion, meet frequently to talk over joint and individual plans for making their stallion boost their farm incomes. Out of these meetings plans develop for further cooperative purchases. Sometimes several groups meet together to pool cooperative experiences. Progress has been so great that a general meeting of participants in all 208 services has been called. Subject of discussion: Possibilities of building more co-ops—specifically for purchasing farm and home supplies—and plans for joining large independent farm cooperatives.

From start to finish Box Elder County typifies what farmers can accomplish for themselves when FSA loans put a handle to the

door of joint enterprise. A cooperative canning service set up in Tennessee at a cost of \$40 netted its owners \$67.50. Total value to cooperator and private participants included the 3,244 cans of fruit, meat, and vegetables canned for winter use. Before this canning service was started, the 28 hard pressed farmers dug into their pockets for store-bought canned goods, or went without when cash was not available.

Sire services of a Kentucky breeding co-op have been used 180 times in the 3 years of its existence. Costing \$126, its owners count the \$203.50 gross income derived, and the increased value of stock and dairy products resulting from better breeding, in computing the benefits of the service.

THOUGH FAILURES OF FSA CO-OPS ARE FEW, no organization is allowed to languish for lack of attention from FSA. When a co-op fails to make its payments on time, investigation begins. Trouble stems usually from one of these causes: Tenant cooperators move away, their share of payments is lost; flood or drought strikes; management is poor.

For every \$10 loaned to co-ops, about \$7 have been repaid, a reasonably high proportion, especially since FSA borrowers are farmers to whom all other credit doors are tightly closed. As FSA co-ops grow and multiply, they demonstrate on a broadening field how the depression-made third of American farmers on relief, or on the edge of relief, can support themselves together if they get a chance to start.

## Before You Buy A Mattress

*Here are some simple facts and definitions to help you select the best buy for your money\**

**KINDS OF MATTRESSES.** There are, in general, two kinds of mattresses: Solid—mattresses filled with some resilient fiber; and innerspring mattresses. A third type of mattress: Those made of rubber, is too new and is yet too expensive to present much of a problem to most consumers.

**MATTRESS FIBERS.** Solid mattresses contain cotton, hair, kapok (a vegetable fiber), and sometimes excelsior, straw, or cotton waste. Labels should tell consumers which of these fibers is used, the grade of the fiber, and whether or not the material is new or reclaimed.

Hair mattresses at their very best contain hair from horses' manes, a very soft and durable hair, plus an admixture of the harder tail hair.

Cheaper hair mattresses are filled with hog's hair, which has a tendency to mat and become very hard. Cattle tail hair is used, too, despite a habit it has of giving off offensive odors during hot or damp weather.

The most acceptable hair mattresses contain 100 percent new hair that is odorless, free of foreign matter.

Hair-filled mattresses are expensive when they are of top flight quality, and in the lower grades they are less satisfactory than cotton mattresses. A good rule is to favor a cotton mattress whenever its price range overlaps that of another type of mattress.

Cotton-filled mattresses come in various grades. The very best are made from grade A cotton felt. This cotton felt consists of new cotton linters (fibers removed from cotton seeds), and at least 25 percent new cotton staple that is at least seven-eighths of an inch long.

Cotton in mattresses is not always felted. In the cheaper variety, unfelted cotton linters are simply blown into the mattress ticking. Occasionally, too, raw cotton is used as mattress filling. Factory-made raw cotton mattresses are usually less desirable than felted cotton mattresses.

Kapok, a vegetable fiber from the East

Indies, makes a soft mattress. It is very brittle, however, and unless the mattress is sunned and aired frequently, the kapok breaks down into dust particles. Doctors occasionally prescribe this type of filling for searchers after sleep who are allergic to other substances.

Very low priced mattresses are filled with excelsior, straw, and cotton waste. Occasionally these materials are sold under deceptive, but euphonious pseudonyms. Excelsior, for example, has been sold as "Pine Fiber" or "Wood Wool."

**INNERSPRING MATTRESSES.** Inner springs, as the name indicates, are used to give mattresses resiliency. Naturally springs must be padded over, and, of course, all commercial innerspring mattresses are padded on the top, bottom, and sides.

The padding in an innerspring mattress may be hair. Sometimes it consists of a layer of a cheaper material, sisal (a kind of hemp), and then a layer of hair. Occasionally it will be cotton and hair and sometimes a more expensive mattress will have hair with an overlaying of lambs' wool. A rule of thumb test for padding is to press down on the mattress with your hands. If the springs can be felt through the padding, be wary.

Inner springs in mattresses fall into one of two general classes. In one, each coil is enclosed in a cloth pocket and put in the mattress separately. In the other, coils are bound together into one huge spring by horizontal spiral wires.

How many individual coils a mattress should have to be comfortable and serviceable depends upon which type of spring the mattress contains, upon how many turns are taken in the coils, and upon whether or not the wire is high quality, tempered steel wire.

Where the springs are individually packaged many more springs are necessary than in the mattress which is made of coiled springs bound together by horizontal spiral wires.

The Federal Government, which purchases both kinds of innerspring mattresses, has worked out a set of specifications prescribing the type of wire that it believes should be

used in innerspring mattresses, and which also specifies the number of coils which it feels should be used in each type of mattress. Interested consumers can get a copy of this specification by sending 5 cents in cash to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Ask for Federal Specification VM96.

There is also another specification for mattresses which contains worthwhile buying information. Worked out by hospital managers, the bedding industry, and the National Bureau of Standards, this specification is called "Mattresses for Hospitals," Commercial Standard CS-54-35. It sets up minimum requirements for innerspring, hair, and cotton mattresses for use in hospitals. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 5 cents in cash.

The number of coils in a mattress is quoted in stores on the basis of standard double bed size mattresses. Thus, a mattress for a single bed may be described as containing (say) 744 coils *per double bed* in the case of the individually packed coil spring, and (perhaps) 234 coils in the spring unit that does not use the individually packed coils.

Mattresses won't last long in a home if they can't be rolled or folded without injury. A good rule is to ask the salesman to roll or fold the mattress he is showing. The mattress should not squeak or make noises during folding and should resume its original shape immediately when it is unrolled.

**TICKING.** Ticking should be closely woven to prevent dust working its way through into the mattress and to prevent hairs and fibers from working their way out. It



MATTRESSES

\*Based on information from the Consumer Standards Project, a WPA project sponsored by the Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture.



shouldn't stretch, shrink, or fade from laundering, exposure to light, or from perspiration. Consumers should insist on explicit label guarantees.

Hospital buyers ordinarily purchase mattresses with an 8-ounce ticking; that means a yard of ticking 32 inches wide weighs 8 ounces. Home economists, too, urge consumers to insist on at least an 8-ounce ticking. Tickings in 6-, 7-, 8-, and 9-ounce weights come on commercial mattresses, and the thing to remember here is that the heavier the ticking the more durable it is likely to be.

Federal specifications call for ticking with blue and white stripes. As a rule printed tickings and brocades are less durable than plain weaves.

TUFTS hold the mattress together and prevent the filling from slipping out of place. Tufts should be arranged in a diamond pattern on the mattress and should be made of twine or tape which is drawn through both sides of the mattress, knotted, and then securely fastened at the ends with a metal strip or a rubber or composition button. Cotton tufts are not regarded as acceptable.

There are also mattresses with patented constructions which do away with tufts. Manufacturers claim that they are just as durable as the tufted variety. Being rid of the tufts is itself an advantage, but since there is little information available on the subject of tufts versus no tufts for mattresses, there is no way consumers can balance rival claims.

Since untufted mattresses fall into the expensive price classes, consumers choosing the inexpensive varieties should examine tufts carefully.

**EDGES.** Firm edges are necessary to prevent a mattress from sagging. The side walls of a mattress should be reinforced with quilting cloth, or felt, which is either tied or sewed to the ticking. Most desirable of the edges offered is the imperial edge which is square in shape, and which is held together by 4 rows of stitching. Other durable edges are made up with 2 thicknesses of ticking into which manila or cotton ropes are sewed. An additional precaution is a tape stitched to the edging which extends completely around the mattress.

**BEDDING LAWS** are primarily health laws intended to protect consumers from bedding articles containing unsterilized, contaminated, or otherwise undesirable second-hand materials. Frequently they also protect consumers against misrepresentation. Occasionally they require the disclosure of useful buying information. Quilts, comforts, pads, pillows, and

upholstery as well as mattresses, usually come under bedding laws.

Thirty-six States and the District of Columbia have specific bedding laws. Some cities also have their own bedding ordinances.

These 12 States are without specific bedding laws (general health laws sometimes apply to bedding): Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Laws, where they exist, usually require that permanent labels, which must not be removed or tampered with, be attached to bedding. Most often these labels must be of a particular size and must be printed in easily legible type. Sometimes labels on bedding containing second-hand materials must be of a particular color, different from the color of the labels on bedding made of all new materials. When second-hand materials are used in bedding, some of the laws require that they be sterilized. Some second-hand materials may not be used at all. In practically every case the name and address of the bedding manufacturer or the retailer must be on the label, and very often the date the manufacturer sells the bedding article to the retailer must also go on the label. Generally bedding laws require manufacturers to tell what kinds of materials have been used in the mattress. Sometimes the amount of each kind of material used must be given, and in a very few States the grade of the material must be disclosed.

Even good bedding laws give consumers poor protection if they are not enforced. Safe enforcement requires an adequate number of competent officials and an appropriation large enough to enable the officers to do their work.

For information about your State bedding laws, write to your State capital.

Bedding laws do not ordinarily require mattress labels to tell consumers all the facts they need to make a wise purchase. For labels which enable you to purchase mattresses intelligently, you must look to mattress manufacturers.

#### MATTRESS LABELS COULD GIVE CONSUMERS THIS INFORMATION:

Is the mattress new or used?

If it's used, has it been sterilized?

If it's a solid mattress, what type of filling does it contain? What's the grade of the filling? How much of each kind of filling material is used?

If it's an innerspring, what kind of innerspring is used? How many springs?

What's the gauge and quality of the wire?

Space to Attach	
<b>DO NOT REMOVE THIS TAG</b> under penalty of law	
This article contains <b>SECOND-HAND MATERIAL</b>	
consisting of	
<b>KAPOK</b>	50%
<b>COTTON LINTERS</b>	50%
Registry No.....	Permit No.....
Space for New York State Inspection Stamp	This tag is attached as required by law as a certification that this article is as represented
<b>CONTENTS STERILIZED</b>	
Sold by <b>JOHN DOE and SON'S CO., INC.</b> No. 567 Greene St. New York City	
or	
Name of Manufacturer.....	
Address.....	

**YELLOW TAGS** cry out "second-hand" materials to the purchasers of mattresses in New York. The second-hand materials are safe since they must be sterilized, but the label prevents consumer deception. Twelve States have no bedding laws. In the other 36 States there are laws, and like all laws the effectiveness of these depends on the adequacy of their enforcement.

What kind of fabric in the ticking?

What's the weight of the ticking?

What kind of edging?

What type of tufts and how many?

Is the mattress guaranteed against the necessity of renovation for any length of time?

How do you care for the mattress to get the best use out of it?

**RULES FOR MATTRESS CARE.** To get good service out of a mattress it must be given good care. Here are five rules for the care of mattresses.

1. Protect the mattress from tearing and from dust by a muslin mattress cover, and by placing a mattress pad between the spring and the mattress.

2. Turn mattresses at least once a week.

3. Air mattresses daily and sun them frequently.

4. Dust with a vacuum cleaner or a stiff brush once a week.

5. Don't sit on the edge of the mattress.

# For Health and Safety, Guard Your Food



1. Potato salads, custards, home-cooked salad dressings, and other picnic foods containing eggs should be kept chilled from the time they are made until they are eaten, especially in hot weather. Don't prepare your picnic foods too early if you are carrying them a long distance.



2. If you plan to serve ground cooked meats for salads or sandwiches, keep the meat in the whole piece until just before it is to be used; then grind it. There is less danger of spreading any undesirable bacteria. Until the meat is served, keep it cool.



3. Bulgy cans mean spoiled food. If the top or bottom of a can yields very much to the pressure of your fingers, the can is suspect. A good rule is to use all canned foods within a year. They may not spoil beyond that period, but they may be inferior in quality.



4. If you have doubts about the freshness of any food, fresh or canned, don't run risks to your health by tasting it, or by attempting to salvage it. Throw it out, if you are a city consumer. Burn it, if you are a country consumer, so that animals cannot get at it.



*Keeping foods fresh is an all-year duty of cooks, but summer temperatures make the job doubly important*

9



5. Don't worry about keeping food in open tin cans if you keep the cans refrigerated and if you are as careful with it as with any left-over food. Foods kept too long in tin cans may get a metallic flavor, but the tin doesn't poison the food.



6. Quality in foods holds up better in cold storage than in warm. This is especially true of canned fruit juices. Keep in a cool dry place, preferably away from the kitchen heat. Sunlight sometimes affects the color of foods bottled in glass, so keep these in a dark place.



7. Nonacid foods, such as most vegetables and meat, should be canned in pressure cookers because pressure cookers make possible higher temperatures. Acid foods don't need to be canned in pressure cookers because acids in foods destroy bacteria.



8. When jellies ferment, the reason is they may not have been properly made, or improperly sealed. Fermentation happens most often when they are made with pectin preparations and brought only to the "rolling boil." Sufficient water remains to support fermentation.

# Building a Bookshelf for Beginning Buyers

*Here's a practical idea for young consumers starting  
in the serious business of managing new households*

"SHALL IT BE this oil burner, or that?" you ask. "How can you transform a cheap cut of meat into a toothsome dish?" Maybe you wish there were some way of knowing exactly what quality you're getting when you buy Johnny's shirts. Or you're in dire need of a few scientific hints on keeping moths out of the clothes closet.

Domestic teasers like these can't wait on the hope that some day somebody may write a consumer encyclopedia with a ready answer for all your household problems. But consumer-bookshelf builders who have a yen for doing things for themselves can make a start toward a household consumer library by collecting some or all of the Department of Agriculture bulletins and pamphlets that we list below. In these bulletins you'll find answers to some of your everyday questions.

The listed titles do not represent all publications issued by the Department intended for consumers. But they are the more important ones. Of course, you can collect these publications, pile them in a heap on an empty shelf, and let them deteriorate into a collection of dust gatherers. Or you can be more scientific about it and make them into a sound foundation for a library that will ultimately reach into other fields that have to do with consumer interests.

One bright consumer who started her own consumer bookshelf began with these very publications. She bought a few cheap binders, one for each group of bulletins. She punched holes in the bulletins, put them in the binders, and then labeled the binders. Each bulletin inside then had a tab stuck on the edge of its cover to serve as a marker or index, quickly visible. That made the whole collection an easily usable reference library for a consumer who still is in search of a recipe, or a bug remedy, or facts on laundry equipment.

Publications that are free can be secured from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., unless otherwise noted. Those that are for sale should be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Do not send stamps. Money order or coin are acceptable.

Remember when ordering to give the titles of the publications that you want, together with the numbers listed after each title.

## FOOD

### *Buying and Growing It*

A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BUYING GUIDE FOR CONSUMERS, 167 MP. 10 cents. Gives quality hints and how to get a good buy in fruits and vegetables. Indicates the seasons at which these products are plentiful in various sections of the country.

CONSUMERS LOOK AT EGGS. 10 cents. Explains the meaning of Government grades on egg cartons, and tells which grades are suited to different home uses. Also describes the nutritional value of eggs. This bulletin is intended primarily as a study outline for a small consumer group.

THE INSPECTION STAMP AS A GUIDE TO WHOLESOME MEAT, 63 MC. 5 cents. Federal inspection of meat protects consumers from unsafe and unwholesome meat products. This circular, written in nontechnical language, explains what the round purple stamp means and how the Meat Inspection Service operates to the benefit of farmer, dealer and consumer.

U. S. GRADED AND STAMPED MEAT 122 L. Free. Buying meat by Government grade betters your chance of getting quality for your dollar. Here Federal meat grades are listed and explained, and different types of meat cuts are identified for consumers.

MILK FOR THE FAMILY, 1705 F. Free. Milk is important in the diet. Read this to determine how much milk each member of the family needs, and how to choose your family milk supply. Also included is information on milk products and the use of milk in food preparations.

A QUIZ ON ICE CREAM. Free. (In press.) Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture. When you buy ice cream you want to know how pure it is, what is in it, how much air it contains, and whether you get full measure. Read this if you want to learn how to get the answers.

INSIDE THE COFFEE CUP. Free. (In press.)

Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture. Coffee that tastes just right at breakfast can start the day off in proper fashion. Food and Drug Administration protects coffee consumers; but to get quality, follow the hints in this bulletin.

DIETS TO FIT THE FAMILY INCOME, 1757 F. Free. Good, balanced diets can be had at low cost if you plan and buy carefully. Here are four scientifically planned diets at four levels of cost with amounts stated for each member of the family. With these you can work out a balanced diet for any family. Sample menus and tables for making your food purchases are included.

GOOD FOOD HABITS FOR CHILDREN, 42 L. Free. Proper eating habits formed early in life can help develop a healthy adult. This leaflet has a number of sound suggestions for improving children's food habits.

THE CITY HOME GARDEN, 1044 F. Free. If you have a plot of land to till, this bulletin will get you started on the right track. In addition to giving advice on planting, it tells the tools you will need, the preparation of the soil, and general care of the garden. Specific information on planting of vegetable crops is also included.

PERMANENT FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDENS, 1242 F. Free. This is intended for the more ambitious home gardener. It gives instructions for the planting and care of a number of small fruits and perennial vegetables.

### *Preparing and Canning It*

CONSERVING FOOD VALUE, FLAVOR AND ATTRACTIVENESS IN COOKING VEGETABLES, 265 C. 5 cents. Vegetables can be cooked the right way—and also the wrong way. Vitamins, flavor, and appearance of the foods can all be destroyed by improper cooking methods. This bulletin will help solve your vegetable cooking problems.

**TRICHINOSIS: A DISEASE CAUSED BY EATING RAW PORK, 34 L.** Free. The way to prevent this disease is proper cooking of pork. This leaflet tells symptoms of trichinosis and gives general preventative suggestions.

**MEAT DISHES AT LOW COST, 216 MP.** 5 cents. You can economize on your food budget without sacrificing either the nutritional needs of your family or appetizing menus. In addition to giving general hints about selecting low cost meat cuts, this leaflet has a number of tested recipes for meats that rate high in nutritional value and low in cost.

**POULTRY COOKING.** 5 cents. General hints on broiling, frying, roasting, stuffing, braising, stewing and steaming poultry. A time table for roasting young birds is included, in addition to several recipes.

**EGGS AT ANY MEAL, 39 L.** Free. There is apparently no limit to the number of ways in which eggs may be served. Here are suggestions for making fruit whips, custards, souffles, and just plain omelets.

**DRY SKIM MILK.** Free. Dry skim milk has practically the same food value as fresh skim milk and lacks only the butter fat and Vitamin A found in whole milk. This leaflet tells how to use dry skim milk as a way of improving the diet at low cost.

**AUNT SAMMY'S RADIO RECIPES, REVISED.** 15 cents. Four hundred of the most popular recipes and 90 menus compiled by nutritionists in the Bureau of Home Economics. All of these recipes and menus have been tested in Government laboratories.



**HOME CANNING OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND MEATS, 1762 F.** Free. The home canner will find this booklet an invaluable aid for doing the job completely and well.

**HOME-MADE JELLIES, JAMS, AND PRESERVES, 1800 F.** Free. Suggestions for preserving, and recipes for making different types of preserves, go into this bulletin. The recipes have all been tested in Government laboratories.

## CLOTHING AND FABRICS

### *Their Selection . . .*

**RAYON COMES OF AGE.** Free. Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The story of what rayon is, how it is made, how to identify it, and how it should be cared for.

**JUDGING FABRIC QUALITY, 1831 F.** Free. Read this if you want to know how to identify cotton, linen, silk, wool, rayon and other synthetic fibers. There is also a description of how yarns and weaves affect wear of garments. Color fastness, shrinkage control, and special fabric finishes are discussed.

**COTTON SHIRTS FOR MEN AND BOYS, 1837 F.** Free. Buying points for getting quality in fabric and fit of men's and boys' shirts. Both business and work shirts are described.

**FABRICS AND DESIGNS FOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES, 1778 F.** Free. The very young children need clothing that fits well and comfortably. As they grow older, they want fabrics that are tough as well as well fitting. The Bureau of Home Economics tells here the results of its research on how to buy children's clothing.

**QUALITY GUIDES IN BUYING READY-MADE DRESSES, 105 L.** Free. Fabric, construction, and style should all be weighed against the price tag when you buy dresses. Simple hints for judging quality are included in the 8-page leaflet.

**HOSIERY FOR WOMEN: A BUYING GUIDE, 342 MP.** 10 cents. Getting quality in hosiery depends largely on your knowledge of how hosiery is made. This amply illustrated bulletin gives you quality guides as well as information on fit and care of women's hosiery.

**WHEN A WOMAN BUYS A COAT.** 10 cents. Tells with picture and paragraph the story of coat quality from outer cloth to inner lining. Samples of good labels inform the consumer what she should know about materials and workmanship when she buys.

**LEATHER SHOES: SELECTION AND CARE, 1523 F.** Free. Contains information about different kinds of shoe leather, with facts on how shoes are made and how they should be selected. There is a concluding statement telling how to get the most wear out of shoes by proper care.

### *. . . And Care*

**STAIN REMOVAL FROM FABRICS: HOME METHODS, 1474 F.** Free. If you have ever been stumped in getting rid of a coffee stain, a grease spot on your best table cloth, or ink on your coat, you should file this one away as a first-aid manual against the next time a similar cleaning emergency occurs. In addition to describing the simple principles of cleaning, the bulletin includes a number of specific remedies for different types of stains.

**METHODS AND EQUIPMENT FOR HOME LAUNDERING, 1497 F.** Free. Planning your laundry and choosing washing equipment is the problem this bulletin solves. In addition, the bulletin suggests methods of laundering, with particular attention to washing different types of fabrics.

**FIREPROOFING FABRICS, 1786 F.** Free. Simple household formulas for fireproofing fabrics are described in this leaflet. Most kitchens have all the materials necessary to do the job.

## ABOUT THE HOUSE

**HOME MEDICINE CABINET.** 5 cents. First aid in the home and what should be in your medicine cabinet in case of emergency.

**HOUSE CLEANING MANAGEMENT AND METHODS, 1834 F.** Free. Cleaning with a plan will ease this most tedious of household tasks. From drawing up a work schedule to selecting the right types of cleaning equipment, there are suggestions here on how to do the job efficiently and without unnecessary work.

**FINISHING YOUR FLOORS AND CLEANING YOUR WALLS.** Free. (In press.) Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture. Your floors and your



walls will last longer if you know how to care for them. This bulletin contains advice to help you do the job.

**FIREPROOFING CHRISTMAS TREES, 193 L.** Free. This will be particularly useful during the Yuletide season.

**WHEN YOU BUY COAL.** Free. Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture. Tips to consumers who want to make their coal dollars count in maximum fuel values. You will find facts here both on the purchase of coal and how to use it most effectively.

**OIL BURNERS FOR HOME HEATING, 406 C.** 5 cents. If you are in the market for an oil burner, this bulletin will help you determine what type to buy for your home. No specific standards are included, but there are suggestions on what to look for when you buy. There is also a statement on comparison of heating with coal and with oil.

**TIPS FOR RUG BUYERS.** Free. (In press.) Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture. Knowing weave construction, amount, and kind of wool are steps toward getting your money's worth when you buy pile rugs. This gives facts on the purchase and care of rugs.

**SLIP COVERS, 76 L.** Free. Notes on selection of slip cover materials and how to make them fit.

**GUIDES FOR BUYING SHEETS, BLANKETS AND BATH TOWELS, 1765 F.** Free. In the absence of standards for these products, consumers must rely on their own information to be sure of quality. This bulletin tells what to look for and what to avoid when you buy.

**SHOPPING FOR PAINT.** Free. Write Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture. The United States Forest Service gives cautions and cues for consumers in search of values in paint.

**BEAUTIFYING THE FARMSTEAD, 1087 F.** Free. Whether you live on a farm or in a suburb, you will find any number of ideas for sprucing up your home in this bulletin. Included are sketches for garden plans, and also suggestions for planting shrubs, flowers, and trees.

**PLANTING AND CARE OF LAWNS, 1677 F.** Free. You don't have to be an expert to

grow a green, attractive lawn for your home. First, you select the right kind of seed, then follow the directions printed here for developing and caring for the lawn.

**GROWING ANNUAL FLOWERING PLANTS, 1171 F.** Free. The home gardener particularly should have this on her bookshelf. Whether you plan a formal garden or something less rigid in design, you will find many practical suggestions here. Included is a section on the use of hotbeds, and specific directions for cultivation of a large number of annual flowering plants.

**ROSES FOR THE HOME, 750 F.** Free. Whether you are ambitious enough to plan a rose arbor, or whether you simply desire a small border of roses around your garden, you will find the way to do it in this bulletin. Instructions include how to prepare the soil, planting, pruning, spraying, and selection of different varieties for different purposes.

### OUT WITH PESTS!

**THE CONTROL OF MOTHS IN UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, 1655 F.** 10 cents. Prevention is better than cure in keeping moths out of furniture. Here you will find suggestions both for guarding furniture against moths and for getting rid of them.

**CLOTHES MOTHS, 145 L.** Free. Tells the wrong and the right ways of preventing moth infestation and checking it once it has started.

**HOUSE ANTS, 147 L.** Free. Poison baits, sprays, and chemicals are all effective death warrants for ants that have invaded the house. The leaflet tells how to make most effective use of these remedies.

**HOUSEFLY CONTROL, 182 L.** Free. Intended specifically for the farm, this bulletin is also useful to the home owner bothered by the ordinary housefly.

**CARPET BEETLES, 150 L.** Free. This pest can ruin furniture and clothing, as well as carpets. Simple household remedies will get rid of them.

**COCKROACHES AND THEIR CONTROL, 144 L.** Free. There are 5 different kinds of cockroaches that may find their way into your kitchen or pantry. To get rid of them you must first find their hiding places, then either poison them or block up their homes. This bulletin tells how to do both.

**BEDBUGS, 146 L.** Free. Shrewd and adept at finding hiding places, this particularly obnoxious pest may be found anywhere in the home. Methods for getting rid of them, ranging from a community effort to individual application of poisonous liquids, are described here.

**SILVERFISH, 149 L.** Free. Your book bindings, lace curtains, and even wall paper can be destroyed by these insects. Department of Agriculture chemists have developed a poisonous formula to be made in the home which can get rid of any infestation.

### FOR REFERENCE

**CONSUMER SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.** The Department of Agriculture serves consumers in a hundred different ways. Here are listed those agencies directly interested in consumer welfare, the work that they do, and publications of interest to the consumer. Write for this to the Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture.

**CONSUMERS' BOOKSHELF.** Consumers' Counsel Series Publication No. 4. 15 cents. A bibliography of free and low cost publications on commodity buying and related consumer problems; also contains aids to teachers of consumer economics.

### BALANCING YOUR BUDGET

**PLANNING AND RECORDING FAMILY EXPENDITURES, 1553 F.** 5 cents. You can make your dollar go further by watching where it goes. Here are 3 different methods for planning your expenditures and recording them once they have been made.

**FARM FAMILY ACCOUNT BOOK.** 15 cents. Intended only for farm families. Can serve both as a budget book and as one way of analyzing the income and outgo of the family.

### KEEP CONSUMER MINDED!

**Consumers' Guide.** Consumers who already subscribe to the *Guide* know that its objectives are to make your dollar go further and also to bring an understanding of the farm program to its readers. If you are not already getting the *Guide* and would like to receive it, write the Consumers' Counsel Division, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.



ENGINEERS in the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering draft plans to restore gullies like these into tree-covered slopes. Here checkdams make running water walk, while layers of straw and brush anchor the soil until grass and shrubs can take hold.

## Conservation Queries

*More answers to more questions on how Government is lending a hand to farmers in their long pull toward nationwide conservation of the soil \**

### WHAT ROLE DOES THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PLAY IN THE NEW CONSERVATION POLICY?

First created with emergency funds in 1934 and established in the Department of the Interior, the Soil Conservation Service was made a permanent agency by the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 and transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

First weapon used by the Soil Conservation Service was the demonstration project. Here and there throughout the country, where erosion had outrun the efforts of farmers, the Soil Conservation Service went in and told the farmers about its work. When a group of farmers agreed to join together to see what could be done to put every acre of field, pasture, and woodlot of every farm to its best possible use, and to repair soil dam-

ages due to past neglect or misuse, the SCS then made an agreement with them to help in a 5-year soil-conserving plan through technical supervision, the loan of machinery, and in some cases, with labor supplied by the CCC or the WPA.

These demonstration projects became examples to farmers for many miles around. Even the farmers not living in the demonstration area learned of the soil-conserving methods and put them into practice on their farms.

One thing farmers all over the country have learned is, that a single farm is often too small a unit to work with if soil-conservation measures are to be generally effective. To get around this problem, recently 38 States have enacted Soil Conservation District laws. These enable the farmers in an area to form a soil-conservation district. The district plans for an entire area. To put a plan into effect, a district may petition any agency of government—Federal,

State, or local—for help. The Soil Conservation Service lends to districts technical guidance and machinery to carry through their program. When bad farming practices by some farmers in a district threaten to jeopardize the soil-conservation program for the entire area, the district may pass regulations, to be approved by the farmers, fixing responsibilities. Then if the recalcitrant farmer



CONSERVATION

\* Part III in a series of 4 articles on soil conservation. Previous articles appeared in the April 15 and May 1, 1940, issues.

doesn't comply, he may be forced by legal action to do so. Maintaining a soil-erosion hazard, farmers believe, is as bad in the country as maintaining a fire hazard in the city.

#### WHAT OTHER CONSERVATION JOBS DOES SCS WORK ON?

Soil Conservation Service works with the Farm Security Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on a Water Facilities Program. In arid western areas, it lends small sums, usually less than \$1,000, to farmers or groups of farmers to enable them to build ponds, dams, reservoirs, tanks, irrigation works, underground storage pools, or any other kind of tested contrivance which can be used to store up precious water against drought and desert. To get a loan, which must be repaid in 20 years, farmers agree to supply part of the labor and materials for the program and promise to practice sound farm management.

Under the Flood Control Acts of 1936-38, the Department, acting through the SCS, the Forest Service, and the BAE, shares responsibility with the War Department in a coordinated effort to control floods. The Department of Agriculture's job is to help farmers reduce the amount of water running off the surface of the land.

Again, with other agencies of the Department, the SCS helps to put to work the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. This three-pronged law, passed in 1937, provides for the loan of money to tenant farmers to enable them to become farm owners; for rehabilitation loans to farmers in need; and finally it authorizes the Department to buy up poor lands on which families are struggling hopelessly to earn livings and to put the lands to better uses, as recreation areas, wildlife preserves, range areas, pastures, and forests.

The SCS is also a research agency which conducts hundreds of experiments in the sciences of soil conservation.

The Farm Security Administration has the major responsibility in what has been called the conservation of human resources on the land. Under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, it lends money to farm tenants to help them buy farms of their own. It also lends money to needy families.

One out of every 10 American farm families is now cooperating with the Farm Security Administration through its rural rehabilitation loans.

FSA now gives special attention to soil-conservation practices, in drawing up loan contracts.

By exerting its influence in behalf of farm

tenants, the FSA is getting the wide adoption of a new type of farm lease between landlord and tenant, which encourages, rather than discourages, soil conservation practices. Longer term leases are urged, and leases which give greater security to the family of the tenant farmer.

Borrowers from FSA are also encouraged to follow better farming practices, to rotate and diversify crops. Loans from now on will not be paid to farmers who intend to raise only one cash crop.

Farm Credit Administration, another Department of Agriculture agency, has, over a period of years, succeeded in bringing down the interest rates on farm mortgages, thus taking some of the pressure for cash off farmers, enabling them to pay more attention to the needs of their farms and less to the demands of their mortgage holders.

Forest Service, the conservation agency of the Department of Agriculture which deals with forest lands, manages almost one-fifth of the Nation's remaining forest lands. It manages the forests so that the soil, timber, water, wildlife, grazing, recreational resources and human opportunities which depend on them will be maintained. It cooperates in tree-planting projects on the western plains, and it joins in the AAA and Soil Conservation Service programs to recover wasted range land in the West.

Botanists in the Department search out plants that are suitable for erosion control plantings. Other experts in animal husbandry carry on research to find new ways to combine livestock production with conservation practices. Engineers work out techniques for mechanical erosion control; that is, they develop new types of dams, new methods of ploughing, and new farm practices to help save the land. Physicists study the action of wind and water on the soil to detect possible problems which must be met, and to find new methods of meeting old problems. Chemists analyze soil to find which soils are most and least susceptible to erosion, and what measures must be taken to restore wornout or depleted soil. Agronomists work out plans for the best methods of planting to avoid wind and water erosion.

Inside the Department of Agriculture, which has most of the responsibility for soil conservation, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics acts as a fact-finding body which conducts surveys and gathers information applying to all of these programs.

It pieces together information gathered by research workers in Federal and State agencies and matches it against the actual experience of farmers. Through the Extension Service and the State Agricultural Colleges,

it feeds information back and forth so that both the research worker and the farmer know what problems the other is facing.

Above all this, it works out plans to guide future conservation activities.

#### DO OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT HELP ON THE CONSERVATION JOB, TOO?

Yes, outside the Department of Agriculture, the Fish and Wildlife Service (effective July 1) works on the problem of conserving the wildlife in the skies and forests, and the fish in the streams.

The Grazing Division of the Department of the Interior manages publicly owned grazing lands. Under the Taylor Grazing Law, it is authorized to trade Federally-owned land for privately-owned land. By this method blocks of Government-owned and privately-owned lands are being built up which can be used to conserve the range most efficiently.

The Bureau of Reclamation is recapturing land from the desert through dams and irrigation projects.

The General Land Office of the Department of the Interior, originally created to give away land under the Homestead Laws, now administers certain grazing areas.

The War Department works on flood control and stream erosion.

Tennessee Valley Authority, with the cooperation of all the other agencies, has an extensive and coordinated conservation program for application in the Tennessee Valley.

#### IS THERE ANY FEDERAL AGENCY WHICH FITS ALL THESE ACTIVITIES TOGETHER?

Yes, the National Resources Planning Board, which is a part of the Executive Offices, works out over-all plans with the cooperation of all these agencies for the conservation of the Nation's resources.

#### HAVE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES SO FAR ACHIEVED ANYTHING?

Yes, they have, though statistics don't measure the progress. The fact that 6 million farmers are actively working for conservation in greater or less degree today is a 7-league step forward for conservation.

There are some illuminating statistics.

In 1938, the Agricultural Conservation Program covered 321 million acres of cropland and the Range Conservation Program an additional 190 million acres of pasture and grazing land.

American farmers planted 25 million acres to green manure and cover crops; 30 million acres to legumes and grasses.

More than 2 million acres of pasture land were improved.



These were planted and other forestry improvement practices were carried out on nearly 200,000 acres.

Terracing, strip-cropping, contour farming, and other erosion-control practices were carried out on 20 million acres.

Fertilizers to the amount of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million tons were applied.

Well over 28 million acres of range land were reseeded.

To conserve and develop water on the range, 21,000 earthen tanks and reservoirs were constructed.

On nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million acres, destructive plants were eliminated and erosion was checked.

The SCS was working in 573 demonstration projects and CCC camp work areas, including 100,000 acres. To date 258 soil-conservation districts have been organized. There are more than 1 million farms includ-

ing 155 million acres in the farmer-organized districts. SCS is already cooperating with 204 districts in carrying out coordinated programs of erosion control.

This is part of the record for 1938. Each year more farmers are practicing more conservation. With the new emphasis on soil-building and conserving practices, with new inducements to put them to work, the records for later programs are expected to roll up even larger figures than these.

I AM A WORKER-CONSUMER-BUSINESSMAN-PROFESSIONAL-PERSON-UNEMPLOYED, AND I LIVE IN THE CITY. WHAT DOES SOIL CONSERVATION MEAN TO ME?

If soil continues to be lost faster than it is saved, years of scarcity and high prices will appear more and more frequently.

As farm families give up the struggle to wrest livings from wornout farms, more of

them will be forced on relief, increasing the cost of the social services.

Men forced off exhausted farms add to the supply of cheap labor, and thus push wages down.

Work in factories and sales by city businesses depend upon prosperous farm families. As farm living levels are pulled down by unproductive soil, city business loses opportunities for profit, and workers lose job opportunities. Farm crises produce industrial depressions.

When farm incomes go down, the ability of farm communities to maintain schools, health services, and social services declines, so that as soil productivity drops off, the cultural level of entire communities drops off at the same time. The end result of this down-spiral is widespread poverty, with its accompanying national ill health and loss of national well-being.



**GENERAL STAFF** of America's army of soil conservationists is recruited from science. (1) Botanists and animal husbandry experts in the Bureaus of Plant and Animal Industry conduct experiments which lead finally to the action programs designed to turn man-made deserts into grasslands for grazing. (2) Soil conservationists must turn a hand to the test tube as well as to the plough to find out what uses the soil should and should not be put to. (3) In the end the man who holds the soil is the farmer. It's his on-the-spot job to preserve the Nation's most valuable heritage. Triple-A payments help him pay the cost of investments in the soil.



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